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KENNEDY SEEN SUSTAINED BY U.S. OFFICIALS

Fulbright Says Testimony Shows Effort On Quemoy, Matsu

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[Washington Bureau of The Sun]

Washington, Oct. 26—Senator Fulbright (D., Ark.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, today declared that secret testimony by high Administration officials before the committee sustains Senator Kennedy's assertions that the Government tried to get Chiang Kai-shek to withdraw troops from Quemoy and Matsu.

Fulbright told a news conference that if the Vice President persists in trying to make an issue out of what is the truth about Quemoy and Matsu he will undertake to have the secret testimony in the committee files made public.

He said he would first ask the Administration whether it will be agreeable to making public "the relevant verbatim testimony" by high Government officials.

"To Authorize Me . . ."

"And if it does not," newsmen asked the Senator, "what will you do?"

"I will consider calling a meeting of the committee to authorize me to make the necessary testimony public," the chairman replied.

At the same time Fulbright made public at a news conference the text of a telegram he had just sent to the Vice President asking him "to see to it" that the still secret United States Information Agency survey on America's prestige abroad be made public.

"Classified Secret"

"I gather from your statement in your last debate with Senator Kennedy that you are willing that this document and all others of a similar nature be made available to the American people."

Fulbright sent his appeal to Nixon after the White House earlier had acknowledged existence of the report but adamantly refused to make it public on the ground that it is "classified secret."

Answering Vice President Nixon's categorical denial that the Eisenhower Administration ever sent a mission to Formosa to persuade Chiang Kai-shek to withdraw from the islands of Quemoy and Matsu, Fulbright said:

"As chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee I have reviewed the material in the committee's files bearing on this question over the last several years."

"Must Have Known This"

"I assert that Senator Kennedy was correct about the Administration's efforts along this line."

"There is no doubt whatever that the Administration has consistently sought ways and means of reducing the Chinese Nationalist garrisons on Quemoy and Matsu."

"As a man who makes much of the fact that he has been in high and intimate councils of the Administration, Mr. Nixon must have known this."

"The only conclusion to be drawn is that he is now deliberately trying to deceive the American people on the eve of the election."

Fulbright said Senator Kennedy had not meant that United States policy was ever to get Chiang Kai-shek completely to withdraw his troops or to abandon Quemoy and Matsu.

The Vice President last night labeled as "unknowing and irresponsible" statements by Senator Kennedy that the United States Government had sent several missions to Formosa to talk to Chiang.

Fulbright retorted that the Vice President's statement was "irresponsible" and said that the secret files of the Foreign Relations Committee show that Nixon was completely wrong in his charge against Senator Kennedy.

Calling the Vice President's statements on foreign policy "increasingly irresponsible," the Foreign Relations Committee chairman said:

"His statements have been so inaccurate and misleading that they can only be the result of inexperience, ignorance or irresponsible political trickery."

"Former Technique"

Earlier Fulbright declared in a prepared statement that he believed when Nixon said the campaign would be settled in the last two weeks that the Vice President would revert to his former technique of the 'big doubt' or 'the innuendo' that his opponent is either disloyal or hopelessly naive.

The Arkansas Senator said he is no longer in the least in doubt that Nixon is playing the Quemoy and Matsu issue "to try to make the American people believe Mr. Kennedy is soft on communism."

On this point Fulbright referred to what Mrs. Styles Bridges, wife of Senator Bridges (R., N.H.), was quoted as saying to the effect that she does not think Senator Kennedy is a Communist "but his record is soft."

"An Evil Way"

"This is a despicable and irresponsible tactic in a political campaign," Fulbright declared. "I didn't approve of it in Senator McCarthy's day and I don't approve of it now. It was used very successfully in the Maryland senatorial campaign, this use of false innuendoes. It is an evil way to play politics. I hope the American people will note and remember."

In his prepared statement Fulbright said that "the Vice President was successful in his former campaigns using these methods, but I believe the American people are now forewarned and will not be confused or deceived by such irresponsible tactics."

Fulbright charged that "the Vice President in the matter of United States prestige abroad—continues to play a game with the American people which, to say the very least, indicates a lack of candor."

Notes Question

He then referred to the fact that in one debate the Vice President said the report on prestige should be made public, but that since that statement "he has apparently done nothing to see to it that high Administration officials release this official and I believe objective report."

Fulbright's reference was to Nixon's response to a question by Walter Cronkite during the last debate as to whether there is such a report and "should not that report, because of the great importance this issue has been given in this campaign, be released to the public?"

"Many Months Ago"

The Vice President replied: "Mr. Cronkite, I naturally am aware of it because I, of course, pay attention to everything Senator Kennedy says as well as Senator Fulbright. Now in this connection I want to point out that the facts simply are not as stated. "First, of all, the report to which Senator Kennedy refers is one that was made many, many months ago and related particu-

larly to the period immediately after Sputnik.

"Second, as far as this report is concerned I would have no objection to having it made public."

But Fulbright said today the report in question is not some report made just after Sputnik I but a survey completed by the OSIA August 29. He said the survey covered, as he understands, ten countries.

Fulbright said he had received a letter today from the State Department "formally rejecting my request" to have the secret data made public.

Meanwhile, James C. Hagerty, White House press secretary, announced that the secret report would not be made public, thus putting the President's support behind the refusal of USIA and State Department officials to allow the foreign relations chairman see it.

Hagerty described the report as "an internal, low-level staff paper similar to many others periodically prepared by the staff."

"Approved By President"

"It is classified 'secret' under policies approved by the President pertaining to internal working papers of the executive branch."

"If you want to know the feelings of the President I refer you to his San Francisco speech," Hagerty said.

In that address, made by Mr. Eisenhower on the night of October 20 the President charged that those who say that the United States is becoming a second-rate power and that its prestige has slumped to an all-time low "are guilty of debasement of the truth."

Fulbright said today that "no one is downgrading the United States, least of all I; we are trying to upgrade it. But it is impossible for the American people to take the necessary steps to make the improvements unless they know the real truth about where we are. The people will only act if they know the truth."

"Rather High Level"

He commented on Hagerty's statement that the report in question is only a "low level" paper. That does "not agree with what George Allen, head of the USIA told me. He said it was a report prepared for the NSC (National Security Council) and I'd call that rather high level."

Later this evening Senator Church (D., Idaho) said of Hagerty's statement "the only thing low level about it is the Administration's decision not to release it."

Meanwhile House Government Operations subcommittee investigators were still surveying the situation to determine whether any way could be found to get release of the document.

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